

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LOS ALTOS, HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009 AT 6:00 P.M. AT THE HILLVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER, ROOM 2, 97 HILLVIEW AVENUE, LOS ALTOS, CALIFORNIA

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Anderson, Rosewater, Chien-Hale, Labetich, Keller

ABSENT: Schink, DeMichiel

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Comments.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Commission Minutes

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LABETICH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 9, 2009 as amended. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2. Disposable Single Use Carry-out Plastic Bags

Margie Suozzo from Green Town Los Altos presented a report and discussed the initiation of a reusable bag program. Ron Labetich presented a report on the opportunity to do a Bring-Your-Own-Bag campaign in the City of Los Altos to encourage shoppers to use reusable shopping bags. The following community members offered comments:

Julie Rose

Nancy Dunaway

Discussion followed the presentations.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LABETICH to recognize universal support for education and Bring-Your-Own-Bag campaign and refer the idea to a subcommittee to put together a proposal or to bring options including costs and a market campaign. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Subcommittee is Patty Rosewater, Ron Labetich, and Chris Keller. They will meet with Nancy Dunaway, Julie Rose and Val Carpenter for input.

3. Disposable Single Use Carry-out Containers

Margie Suozzo from Green Town Los Altos presented a report on single use carry-out containers. Discussion followed the presentation.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LABETICH, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KELLER to table the issue of carry-out containers until Green Town reports back on the results of a local restaurant case study and no later than the July 2009 meeting. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Water Conservation

Margie Suozzo and Linda Gass from Green Town Los Altos presented a report on water conservation.

J. Logan, Staff Liaison, presented a staff report prepared for the City Council meeting on April 14, 2009 on water conservation efforts taken by staff to reduce internal city water consumption by 15% and conservation measures now in progress within City operations.

Ron Richardson and Ken Jenkins from Cal Water presented a report on water retailer water conservation activities and the Santa Clara County Valley Water District water conservation measures. Discussion followed the presentations.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ANDERSON to appoint a sub-committee of Linda DeMichiel and Elizabeth Chien-Hale to study with Green Town Los Altos representatives the proposals made tonight and to come back to the Environmental Commission next month with actual recommendations.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER to understand what can be done with existing resources and leverage of existing programs. AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLER requesting a budget of resource staff hours. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LABETICH. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion continued to explore if an intern can be utilized for additional staff time.

5. Sustainable Events

Margie Suozzo from Green Town Los Altos reported on events and recommendation after meeting with the Los Altos business community representatives. Green Town Los Altos withdraws their request for a change to the Municipal Code regulating special events. Discussion followed. Green Town Los Altos representatives will work with the business community and food vendors to encourage waste management at events similar to those used at the community picnic. Discussion followed.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LABETICH recommended to staff to include composting services in the waste management request for proposals. SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Green Business Certification

Jim Gustafson, Engineering Services Manager, reported on Green Business Certification for the City of Los Altos. Patty Rosewater asked to participate in meeting with Jim Gustafson and staff from Santa Clara County. Jim Gustafson reported that staff time and involvement for certification is intense.

7. Waste Management Contract Request for Proposal

Jim Gustafson, Engineering Services Manager, reported on the status of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for a waste management contract. Additional discussion presented by LAGC (Los Altos Garbage Company) General Manager, John Zirelli and Recycling Coordinator Tammy Del Bene. Request to re-agendize in two months to review the Request for Proposals.

8. Solar Questionnaire

Jim Gustafson, Engineering Services Manager, reported on a grant funding questionnaire for solar. Discussion followed. The City has not taken action on the questionnaire.

9. Annual Update to Commissions

A. J. Logan, Staff Liaison, distributed *Rosenberg's Rules of Order* and *City of Los Altos City Council Norms and Procedures*.

B. Commissioners were reminded of the Annual Update to Commissions on laws related to the Brown Act and Conflict of Interest on May 5, 2009 at 6 PM in Council Chambers presented by the City Clerk and City Attorney.

C. Patty Rosewater will attend the Mayor's meeting with Commission Chairs on April 14, 2009 as the representative of the Environmental Commission.

COMMISSION REPORTS AND DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KELLER, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ROSEWATER for the regular meeting of the Environment Commission to begin at 6 p.m. to afford a three hour meeting each month except for June as needed. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

J. Logan, STAFF LIAISON